

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 09461 081726Z
ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL GENOA
AMCONSUL MILAN
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CONFIDENTIAL ROME 9461

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IT
SUBJECT: ANDREOTTI DISCUSSES NEGOTIATIONS FOR A PROGRAMMATIC
ACCORD

SUMMARY. OVER DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE ON JUNE 6, PRIME
MINISTER ANDREOTTI OUTLINED FOR ME WHAT HE BELIEVES MIGHT
BE THE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS
BETWEEN THE DC AND THE ABSTAINING PARTIES FOR A
PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD. ANDREOTTI SEEMED CONFIDENT THAT
SUFFICIENT AGREEMENT ON KEY POINTS COULD BE REACHED TO
ALLOW HIS GOVERNMENT'S SURVIVAL AT LEAST UNTIL THE FALL,
THOUGH HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CABINET
SHUFFLE BEFORE THAT TIME. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE COURSE OF A PRIVATE DINNER AT MY RESIDENCE
ON JUNE 6 PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI APPEARED CONFIDENT THAT
A SATISFACTORY PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD CAN BE NEGOTIATED
BETWEEN THE DC AND THE ABSTAINING PARTIES WITHIN
THE NEXT TWO OR THREE WEEKS WHICH WILL ENABLE HIS
GOVERNMENT TO SURVIVE INTO THE FALL AND PERHAPS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 09461 081726Z

BEYOND. ANDREOTTI SAID THAT HE FORESAW NO DIFFICULTY
IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT ON A PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH THE
ECONOMY. HE BELIEVES THAT PCI AND PSI AGREEMENT ON
EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO DEAL WITH THE PUBLIC
SECURITY SITUATION, SUCH AS WIRETAPPING AND PREVENTIVE
DETENTION, CAN BE WON IF THE MEASURES ARE IMPOSED
FOR A SIX-MONTH EMERGENCY PERIOD ONLY. THIS WOULD

ALLOW THE LEFT TO BACK NEEDED SECURITY MEASURES WITH COMPROMISING ITS PRINCIPLES. ANDREOTTI
ACKNOWLEDGED THAT AT PRESENT NO AGREEMENT SEEMS POSSIBLE ON POLICE UNIONIZATION, WHERE THE DC INSISTS ON AN AUTONOMOUS UNION WHILE THE PSI AND PCI ARE COMMITTED TO JOINING THE POLICE UNION TO THE CGIL-CISL-UIL FEDERATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE AND INTERIOR MINISTER COSSIGA BOTH FEEL THAT THE ISSUE OF AUTONOMY IS NOT ALL THAT IMPORTANT ONCE THE PRINCIPLE OF UNIONIZATION IS ACCEPTED.

2. ANDREOTTI FEELS THAT THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESULT IN ONE OF THREE POSSIBLE OUTCOMES FOR HIS GOVERNMENT ONCE AN ACCORD IS REACHED. A) THERE COULD BE NO CHANGE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, THE PRIME MINISTER BELIEVES THAT THIS WILL NOT SATISFY THE PSI AND WILL THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT FOR THE COMMUNISTS TO ACCEPT. B) THERE MIGHT BE A SMALL CABINET SHUFFLE IN WHICH ONE OR TWO OF THE CURRENT MINISTERS WOULD BE REPLACED BY TECHNICIANS. ANDREOTTI ADDED THAT SUCH TECHNICIANS WOULD BE APOLITICAL, LIKE THE PRESENT FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER RINALDO OSSOLA, AND WOULD NOT BE IDENTIFIED POLITICALLY WITH ANY OF THE LEFT PARTIES. IN ANDREOTTI'S OPINION SUCH A GOVERNMENT COULD LAST FOR ANOTHER YEAR OR MORE. C) A THIRD POSSIBILITY IS THAT OF A MANAGED GOVERNMENT CRISIS IN WHICH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DISSOLVED AND A NEW ONE FORMED WITHIN A FEW DAYS WITH TECHNICIANS ADDED. HE ADDED THAT THIS THIRD POSSIBILITY INVOLVED A GREAT MANY

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 ROME 09461 081726Z

RISKS AND THAT HE HOPED IT WOULD BE AVOIDED. COMMENT: ANDREOTTI GAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE CONSIDERS THE SECOND SOLUTION, A SMALL CABINET SHUFFLE, THE MOST LIKELY AND THAT IT IS ALSO THE ONE THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD PREFER. END COMMENT.

3. IN DISCUSSING THE ECONOMY THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED OPTIMISM THAT THE TARGET OF REDUCING INFLATION TO 14 PERCENT BY MARCH 1978 WOULD BE REACHED AND THAT THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WOULD IMPROVE SUFFICIENTLY TO MAKE ADDITIONAL EXTERNAL FINANCING UNNECESSARY. HE STRESSED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS CONDITIONAL ON AVOIDING ANOTHER MAJOR OIL PRICE INCREASE OR SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF OTHER RAW MATERIALS WHICH MIGHT FURTHER WORSEN ITALY'S TERMS OF TRADE.

GARDNER

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